Farewell to one-of-a-kind Topinka *3*

New Year's is coming. Got plans? *20*

red eye

Thursday
DECEMBER 11, 2014

★ FREE ★

A Chicago Tribune publication

HELP

Beyond recent headlines, domestic abuse victims, families and courts struggle to navigate legal system *6-7*

BY LISA ARNETT FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



EAT

BACON THURSDAYS
Benny's Chop House
444 N. Wabash Ave. 312-626-2444

The weekly bar menu offers bacon-filled snacks, desserts and drinks such as maple-glazed bacon ($4.99), chipotle bacon tacos ($9.99), maple creme brulee with crispy bacon ($5.99) and Brian's Bacon Elixir ($13.99), a mix of bacon-infused vodka, Kahlua, espresso tequila and Irish cream. 3-7 p.m.



DRINK

PEARL TAP PARTY
Shaw's Crab House
21 E. Hubbard St. 312-527-2722

Get a first taste of Goose Island's Pearl Commemorative common, a twist on a California common-style beer. The limited-edition collaborative brew was made to celebrate the River North restaurant's 30th anniversary. Order a pint for $7 paired with half-price oysters. 4-6 p.m. No cover.

DO

BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER
Logan Bar & Grill
2230 N. California Ave. 773-252-1110

Chicago-based performance duo Mothergirl calls out numbers at the fourth annual benefit for Chicago Zine Fest. Each round awards prizes from local businesses including Quimby's Bookstore and Handlebar. 7 p.m. $10 suggested donation.

PROVINCE HOLIDAY SALE
Flat Iron Arts Building
1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-789-9330

The pop-up shop is selling exotic plants and terrariums for 20 to 30 percent off and offering a 10 percent discount on antiques, vintage home decor and original paintings before it closes for the holidays on Dec. 18. Noon-6 p.m.

VOGUE FOR TOTS
Berlin Nightclub
954 W. Belmont Ave. 773-348-4975

Show off your moves for a shot at winning prizes at the eighth annual benefit for the Julian D. King Gift Foundation, which features beats from DJs Tess Kisner, All The Way Kay and Swaguerrilla, and the first live performance of Lila Star's single, "The Truth." 10 p.m. $5-$7. Tickets: **do312.com/stardust**

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY Beautiful Drifter and Mike Gallagher & Higher Order perform at Alternarock Fest Thursday at Jerry's (1938 W. Division St.).

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Topinka remembered for political style

Chicago Tribune

In an era of politicians who are wedded to the party line, coiffed and packaged to sell to voters, colorful and outspoken Judy Baar Topinka spent three-and-a-half decades thinking, acting and speaking outside the box.

She castigated opponents in her own Republican Party as "morons," joked about the effects of the hair dye she used, promoted her frugal nature of fashion shopping at Goodwill—all the while putting a premium on delivering for the people she represented.

Topinka, a suburban newspaper reporter and editor who went on to serve as a state lawmaker and state treasurer, lose a bid for governor and make a comeback as Illinois comptroller, died Wednesday of complications from a stroke. She was 70.

She died a little more than a month after winning re-election as comptroller, an office that keeps the state checkbook, and just weeks before she was to join other statewide winners at a Jan. 12 inauguration.

She's remembered for her political style, a no-nonsense, straight-shooter unafraid to work with like-minded allies on both sides of the aisle to advance public policy.



State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka waves to photographers at last year's Illinois State Fair.
JOHN J. KIM /TRIBUNE FILE

Consider the outpouring of reaction to her death. The fond remembrances came from Democratic President Obama and Illinois congressmen and state legislators of both political stripes, departing Democratic Gov. Quinn and incoming Republican Gov.-elect Bruce Rauner.

"Judy was an institution in Illinois politics," Obama said in a statement, adding, "She was blunt, pragmatic, unfailingly cheerful and energetic, and always willing to put politics aside to find common-sense solutions that made a difference for the people of Illinois."

In many respects, Topinka could be considered the matriarch of the once-controlling moderate wing of the Illinois Republican Party. A fiscal conservative, she was an early advocate of abortion rights and gay rights, positions that often put her at odds with members of the GOP's socially conservative wing.

"On Election Day, she was a Republican, but after the election she was there to help everybody," former Gov. Jim Edgar said. "And if she had a point of view that didn't agree with so-called party doctrine, she still had that point of view. She wasn't going to be dictated to by the party."

The "morons" tag came at the expense of her Republican governor foes in the 2006 primary, though general election opponent Rod Blagojevich wasn't spared a tongue lashing. The Democratic governor, Topinka opined, had "little weasel eyes." In the pomp of her first inauguration as treasurer in 1995, her line about ham-and-bean dinners, riding in a small campaign van and flatulence became part of Springfield lore.



Topinka in 1987
PHIL GREER/TRIBUNE FILE

Though she eventually became a party insider, she made it a point to note that she wasn't one of the good old boys who had controlled Illinois politics.

"I don't know that I was ever the choice of the party regulars," Topinka said while running for governor. "One fellow told me, 'You are never going to get anywhere. You don't run with the big dogs.' OK, well, you know, now, the big dogs are either retired, dead or in prison. So here I am."

Topinka was the first woman to become the Illinois GOP's nominee for governor, first woman to serve as state Republican chairman and first woman to win two different statewide offices.

It was her loss to the now-convicted and imprisoned Blagojevich that had threatened to define Topinka. The better-funded Democrat labeled her in a series of millions of dollars of negative TV campaign ads with the catchphrase "What's she thinking?"

As the ads questioned her judgment and common sense, Topinka was hampered by the lingering toll among Republicans involving the scandal-plagued tenure of former Gov. George Ryan, who went to prison. A video of her dancing the polka with Ryan was used against her by a GOP primary opponent.

Compared with the say-anything Blagojevich, Topinka also was criticized for a lack of vision for the state.

"You can have all the vision in the world, but if you can't pay for it, what good is it?" she once said. "I am more meat and potatoes, sorry. You want a good-running, functioning state that you can depend on. I am just dependable."

Her death prompted an outpouring of condolences that went beyond political figures to include special interest groups and labor unions, a traditional Democratic ally.

Rauner had grown close to Topinka during his successful campaign for governor and had based his transition activities in the comptroller's office during the recent legislative session.

"She was just filled with life," Rauner said during a brief visit to the comptroller's office at the Thompson Center. "She had a big heart, and people could just see it. Within two minutes of spending time with her, you loved her. She lived life to the fullest. She cared deeply and you could see it in her face, you could see it in her eyes."

ONE-OF-A-KIND POLITICIAN

During her time in Illinois politics, Judy Baar Topinka was not afraid to step outside the box.

- Her humor was often self deprecating.
- She'd note the red hair dye she used was a color that could not be found in nature.
- She could reliably be found clutching an enormous cup of convenience store coffee, a lipstick-stained straw sticking out of the lid.
- She had a fondness for buying clothing at resale shops.
- She visited garage sales spotted along the campaign trail.
- She played the accordion and danced a polka with all comers including a less-than-enthused Vice President Dick Cheney. TRIBUNE



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Body cams on cops a good idea in theory, but ...



Hector Luis Alamo
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The tragic shooting deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police officers have sparked a wave of protests—including die-ins—across the country, calling for protections against police abuse. Here in Chicago, traffic along Lake Shore Drive was blocked by protesters in the wake of yet another non-indictment verdict, this time in the case of Eric Garner, who died last summer after an NYPD officer applied a proscribed chokehold while trying to apprehend Garner for selling loose cigarettes.

Responding to the public outcry for increased police oversight, President Obama has asked Congress for $263 million to provide 500,000 body cameras to police nationwide. For his part, Chicago's top cop, Garry McCarthy, has promised to begin equipping some of the city's finest with body cams within a couple of months. McCarthy's move is itself in response to a report by the U.N. Committee Against Torture that singled out the Chicago PD's treatment of blacks and Latinos.

> "When the police arrive, their mere presence should put people at ease—not the cameras attached to their lapels.

At first glance, fitting police officers with cameras seems like an immediate, sure-fire way of curbing misconduct and building community trust. Objective video would eliminate the he-said, he-said element that made the Michael Brown case so controversial, and both officers and the public would be much more conscientious in their interactions if they knew they were being recorded.

Initial results from communities where body cams have been implemented bear much of this out, according to a 2013 report in The Guardian. Complaints against police officers have fallen, and either suits have been dropped or offending officers have admitted their wrongdoings after video was reviewed.

Notwithstanding the hype, body cameras aren't a panacea for police misconduct. The events that lead to Garner's death in Staten Island—and John Crawford's September death in an Ohio Wal-Mart, and Kajieme Powell's August death less than four miles from where Michael Brown was shot—all were captured on video. None of the police officers involved in those deaths were indicted.

Another black man, Levar Jones, was shot in September by a South Carolina state trooper simply for reaching for his wallet after being instructed to do so. That entire incident also was caught on camera, but this time the trooper promptly was fired.

Plus, cameras can't record anything if they aren't turned on.

A grand jury in Utah decided not to indict three officers in the September shooting death of Darrien Hunt, a 22-year-old black man who was wielding a sword. One of the officers wore a body cam that was never switched on. In November, a Spokane, Wash., police veteran shot a suspected stalker who allegedly threatened to run the officer over with his car. The officer also wore a body cam that wasn't recording—the events happened too quickly, according to the officer.

Questions also have been raised concerning privacy, like when a body cam-equipped officer enters a private residence. While generally supportive of body cams, groups like the ACLU are pressing police departments to institute policies regarding how these videos will be stored, accessed and reviewed, as well as how and when they are released to the public.

The fact that police officers in America must wear body cams just so the public feels a bit safer can only be seen as a failure of society. Cops are supposed to be synonymous with public safety. No citizen should be as afraid of police officers as they are of criminals. When the police arrive, their mere presence should put people at ease—not the cameras attached to their lapels.

Community policing—building trust between officers of the law and members of the community based on humanitarian understanding on both sides—will do more to eliminate anti-cop sentiment than body cameras ever could. Police interactions with the community must at all times be governed by three words, the ones displayed on every squad car in the city: Serve and protect.

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Chicago police on scene at Nordstrom after a fatal shooting inside the store
TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE

'AN ABSOLUTE TRAGEDY'

LIMITS OF ABUSE AID HIGHLIGHTED BY NORDSTROM SHOOTING

Chicago Tribune

They come by the dozens every weekday to the teeming Cook County Domestic Violence courthouse, people from all walks of life who for one reason or another want a court order to calm an abusive relationship or stop a stalker.

Some have black eyes and haven't slept. They bring police reports and are ready to press charges. Others waver, wary that taking legal action could set off a powder keg. Relatives come, too, desperate and tired of seeing a loved one mistreated.


Nadia Ezaldein

At the courthouse on Chicago's Near West Side, they enter a world that offers a lifeline but also comes with its own potential pitfalls. One by one they're screened in a "triage" room just off the lobby. They fill out forms and wait to see a judge. There are advocates, social workers, prosecutors and pro bono lawyers standing by to help, but they can do only so much. Often it's up to the victims to decide how best to help themselves.

That's the dilemma Nagah Ezaldein found herself in last April when she went to the courthouse at 555 W. Harrison St. while seeking a no-contact order for her sister, Nadia, who allegedly had been beaten, threatened and harassed by her ex-boyfriend.

Judge Caroline Moreland denied the petition, saying that by law the victim needed to make the request. Her sister said Nadia was too scared to come to court. As it turned out, she had every reason to be fearful.

On Black Friday, she was working at the bustling Nordstrom department store along the Magnificent Mile when police say the ex-boyfriend, Marcus Dee, fatally shot her before turning the gun on himself. It was her 22nd birthday.

Such high-profile slayings are a reminder that there are no easy solutions to domestic violence. For those living with a volatile partner or dealing with an obsessive ex, the reasons for not taking action are complex, including shame and financial considerations, even safety of children.

Sebastian T. Patti, the presiding judge at the Domestic Violence courthouse, defended Moreland's decision to deny the petition by Ezaldein's sister, saying that, under the law, a family member can intervene only if the alleged victim is a minor or too physically incapacitated to come to court.

With thousands of cases to handle each year—from routine squabbles to felony assaults—those who work at the courthouse know that some victims inevitably will be lost. But those deaths hit hard, the judge said.

"I will tell you that everybody who works here bleeds real blood," Patti said in an interview last week. "You think about the fact that somebody who was here a couple weeks ago

who I maybe talked to, bumped into at the vending machine ... that person is no longer on the planet. It does have that effect."

A revolving door

According to her family, Nadia Ezaldein had broken up with Dee almost a year before her slaying and had taken steps to avoid him, including changing her phone number three times. But for most of those who die at the hands of their abusers, the greatest danger comes as they try to leave. In fact, about three-fourths of the people who die each year because of domestic violence were killed while attempting to end the relationship, according to data from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Leaving an abusive relationship is usually not a single event, but a process, experts say. It typically takes a victim seven attempts before walking away, said Cameka Crawford, spokeswoman for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

"We know they are the expert in their own lives," Crawford said. The hotline handled more than 300,000 calls in 2013—the largest volume since its inception 20 years ago.

But that doesn't make the situation easier for others to understand, especially when police officers have made multiple calls to the same house or relatives have made repeated trips to the emergency room with a loved one. A few days later, victims recant. They refuse to press charges. Or they are desperate to believe a flurry of promises—that their abuser has changed or will stop drinking, advocates said.

People at their worst

When Ezaldein's sister came to the courthouse April 8, she would have first encountered a front desk receptionist whose job it is to ask a flurry of questions about her allegations and what relief she was seeking.

If a police report had been filed or officers dispatched on a specific incident, the petitioner is sent to the state's attorney's desk, where prosecutors evaluate whether criminal charges could be lodged.

If there was no police involvement—which apparently was the case with Ezaldein at that point—the petitioner is sent back to fill out a seven-page form that includes a summons for the accused, a proposed order for the judge and a section in which the alleged incidents can be detailed.

There are several opportunities for petitioners to seek help, either from the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic—a private, not-for-profit organization that has office space in the reception area—or from law students from DePaul University who have volunteered their assistance.

On a recent morning, the reception room was busy with petitioners seated at low tables, filling out forms and talking to advocates.

One woman approached the front desk holding a police report in her hand, seeking a warrant for her boyfriend's arrest. She kept her composure as the receptionist asked questions. Yes, he had been physically abusive. No, they didn't have any children together. Yes, she had previously tried to end the relationship. She then was sent back to talk to prosecutors.

On a busy day, up to 90 people can come through the front doors, most of whom have never before been to court, Patti said. Emotions are often raw, nerves frayed. There's also the constant worry that the alleged abuser will show up at the courthouse.

"You really do see people at their absolute best and their absolute worst here," the judge said.

In Nadia Ezaldein's case, court officials found no paper trail revealing if her sister had sought the help of one of the advocates before seeing the judge. If she had, she likely would have been told about the law prohibiting family members from filing on behalf of a relative, Patti said. In her petition, the sister also listed her home address as Fort Lauderdale, Fla., likely another red flag for the judge, he said.

Court records show that the day before, Dee had come to the courthouse to seek a no-contact order against Ezaldein's sister for allegedly threatening to have her brother kill him. His request was rebuffed by a judge who said under the law he needed to prove a pattern of stalking, not a single incident.

Nearly a week after Ezaldein's murder, both case files still sat on Patti's desk. The judge said he was still trying to answer his own question: What, if anything, could be learned from this?

For now, only one conclusion was certain for Patti: "It's an absolute tragedy for two families."



A safe area near the court rooms at the Cook County Domestic Relations courthouse at 555 W. Harrison St. JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

HOW TO HELP

The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers the following tips for friends and family members trying to help domestic abuse victims:

- Acknowledge that they are in a difficult and scary situation, be supportive and listen.
- Be nonjudgmental.
- If they end the relationship, continue to be supportive of them.
- Encourage them to participate in activities outside of the relationship with friends and family.
- Help them develop a safety plan.
- Encourage them to talk to people who can provide help and guidance.
- Remember that you cannot "rescue" them.

Call 877-863-6338 for the Illinois Domestic Violence Help Line, which is staffed 24 hours a day by advocates and offers confidential services in multiple languages. Teens can text "loveis" to 22522 to get help.

300 THOUSAND
The number of calls the National Domestic Violence Hotline received in 2013—the largest volume since its inception.

2x
Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network saw its call volume double after a video of former Baltimore running back Ray Rice knocking out his then-fiancee went viral.

¾
of the people who die each year from domestic violence were killed while trying to end the relationship.

9,000
The number of misdemeanor criminal cases filed in the first half of 2014 in Chicago's domestic violence court as well as five suburban courthouses.

2,500
The number of orders of protection sought by prosecutors out of those 9,000 cases

SOURCES: TRIBUNE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

chicago

THURSDAY 43 28 Gettin' warm

FRIDAY 46 33 Warmer

SATURDAY 53 42 Warmest

FYI Public voting to name the Shedd Aquarium otter pup will end Thursday at 2 p.m. The final name will be revealed Friday.

Fire guts century-old building

By Megan Crepeau | REDEYE

Chicago firefighters were tasked with an emotional assignment in the South Loop on Wednesday: trying to save a historic former fire station from being destroyed in an extra-alarm fire.

"It's a little heartbreaking," said Deputy District Chief John Shehan, who was on the scene Wednesday afternoon when the fire caved in the building's roof. "It's a shame."

The extra-alarm fire started by accident at about 10:20 a.m. Wednesday while roofers were working on top of the building, according to Chicago Fire Department spokesman Juan Hernandez. The building was evacuated of construction workers and restaurant employees, and everyone got out safely. The blaze was under control by about 12:15 p.m. after its roof collapsed.

The firehouse-turned-restaurant at 1401 S. Michigan Ave. has hosted a president and movie stars, and served as one of former Mayor Richard M. Daley's favorite eateries.

It is architecturally significant as well, according to Bonnie McDonald, president of Landmarks Illinois, who confirmed the building was designated as a landmark in 2003.

"It's important for us to reuse this place as a landmark to firefighters," McDonald said.

Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago used to work from the building when it housed firefighters, according to Hernandez. Once Santiago learned of the fire, "he focused all efforts on extinguishing it," Hernandez said. The building last served as a firehouse in the late 1990s, according to a CFD spokesman.

Hernandez said every effort was made to preserve the building, though since the roof had collapsed it would "take a lot of motivation to be rebuilt, and we hope that it is, because obviously it's a nice, iconic area."

The owner, Matthew O'Malley, said in a statement that he was grateful that no one was hurt in the fire. He also said they plan to rebuild.



Firefighters put out a fire at the Chicago Firehouse Restaurant on South Michigan Avenue.

MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE

EXTENDED COVERAGE

Check out more photos and watch a video of the firefighters putting out the flames at **redeyechicago.com/loopfire**.

"We owe it to our history, our team and our community to preserve this treasured Chicago landmark which will remain a cornerstone of the South Loop neighborhood."

The station was built for horse-drawn fire equipment in 1905 to serve the fashionable Prairie Avenue neighborhood, according to the Chicago Firehouse Restaurant's website.

"Its Romanesque Revival-style details ... make it one of the more distinctive and handsome firehouses in the City," states the city's Chicago Landmarks website. Most of the facade was kept intact when the building was converted to a restaurant in 2000, and the metal sliding poles, lockers and tin ceilings also were retained.

Firefighters were based there for decades. It was home base for Engine Company 104 and, according to Shehan, an arson investigation unit. The 1991 Ron Howard movie "Backdraft," about firefighter brothers on the trail of an arsonist, was partially filmed there.

The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant was a favorite of Daley, who lived nearby. He hosted former President George W. Bush's 60th birthday dinner there in 2006.

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EXPRESS LINES

» Uber said Wednesday it has "removed" one of its drivers as police investigate allegations that he sexually assaulted a female customer in Lincoln Square last month.

» The CTA board on Wednesday approved eight new concession leases for its rail stations, including snack shop Grab-A-Bite at the Chicago/State Red Line station and a Bin 36 restaurant at CTA headquarters.

» Fees for Chicago Park District park programs, parking on park property and permits for special events will go up next year to balance the $448.6 million budget approved on Wednesday. TRIBUNE, REDEYE

THE DIGIT

11%

The amount by which Commonwealth Edison will raise delivery rates to help pay for a $2.6B grid modernization effort. TRIBUNE

Financing OK'd for Soldier Field video screens

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

Just a few more games at Soldier Field and then Bears fans can say goodbye to the outdated video screens in use since the 2003 renovation.

Under a financing deal approved on Wednesday by the Chicago Park District board, the stadium will replace the two existing video screens with new, larger, brighter high-definition video screens—one at the north endzone and one at the south endzone—in time for next football season. The existing video screens in each endzone measuring 23 feet high and 82 feet wide will be swapped out for ones 40 feet by 129 feet.

That means the new video screens will have 2.7 times bigger surface area, said Steve Lux, park district chief financial officer.

"It's not Cleveland, Jacksonville or Dallas but it's a significant improvement from what's there now," said Park District CEO Mike Kelly, naming cities with stadiums with big screens.

Ribbon boards at the 200 level will be replaced and new ribbon boards will be added on the east and west side of the 300 level as well.

"Improving our fans' game day experience remains a priority and bringing larger, high definition video boards will add to the in-stadium environment," according to a statement from the Bears.

The Chicago Park District board voted Wednesday to advance $7 million for the purchase of video boards, ribbon boards, video control room equipment and related construction.

The park district, which owns Soldier Field, will get reimbursed "over a period of time" by the Illinois Sports Facility Association through its annual capital improvements subsidy and existing association funds, according to a park document.

The Bears will finance the remaining costs of the estimated $20 million project. The project includes the purchase of the equipment, the removal and demolition of the existing video boards, and the design, engineering and installation of the new video boards, according to the park district.

It is unclear whether Bears ticket prices will be directly impacted by the project.

Demolition of the existing video boards will begin the day after the Hockey Classic on Feb. 7, Lux said. Installation is expected to be completed by July 15, he said.

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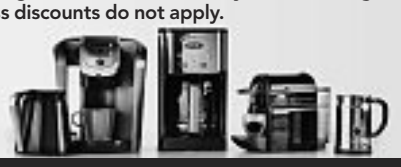
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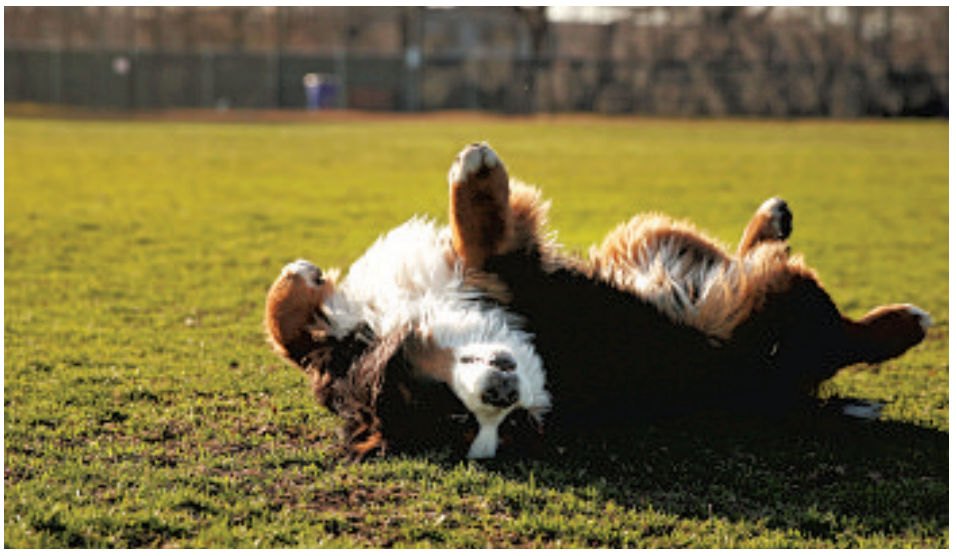
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Dogs will not be allowed in Maggie Daley Park once it fully opens. ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE FILE

Maggie Daley Park to be dog-free area

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

Leah Laurie wants to be able to walk her three-year-old dog Ricky, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, across the street at the new Maggie Daley Park.

But the Chicago Park District won't allow it. Just like at Millennium Park.

Laurie joined a handful of downtown residents who on Wednesday asked the park district to reconsider its ban on dogs at the new $60 million Maggie Daley Park, which opens its ice skating ribbon on Saturday.

"He definitely wants this park back open; he and all his friends," Laurie, 62, said of her dog. She said she had walked Ricky through the park before it went under construction to access the lakefront without incident or complaints.

After the park board meeting, park district CEO Mike Kelly explained the decision he made to prohibit dogs there.

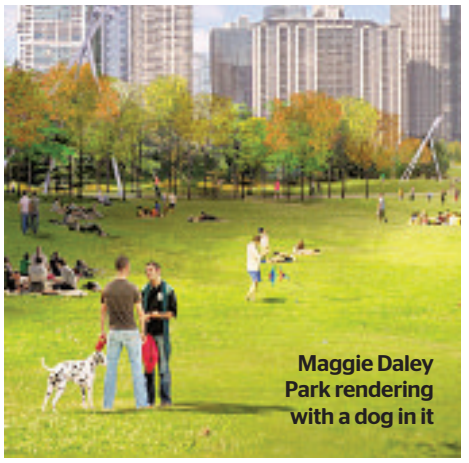
"It's dog waste. Despite what people want—and all these people are good people, they all have the best interest at heart—but people do let their dogs off leash in Chicago," Kelly said.

"It was a prudent decision. ... Unfortunately, we have to make tough decisions here and we know it's not going to make everybody happy, but it is going to be a wonderful park."

Some residents said they feel betrayed because they were promised that dogs would be allowed, pointing to park renderings that show dogs on the site.

Todd Doersch, who has lived across from Maggie Daley Park for six years, isn't a dog owner but thinks the park should permit pets.

"I have witnessed over the years many hundreds of dog walkers and dog owners in that exact park respectfully using the park ... and cleaning up after their pets," Doersch said.



Maggie Daley Park rendering with a dog in it

However, Kelly disputes that allowing dogs at the park was ever guaranteed.

"All I can say is it was never promised by me. It may very well, though, have been part of the community process. But it's a 20-acre park that evolved," he said.

The park district pointed out there are two dog parks nearby at Lake Shore East and South Grant Park and that dogs are not allowed on playgrounds. Roughly 95 percent of the city's 585 parks are accessible for dogs, Kelly said.

Kelly isn't saying Maggie Daley Park will be dog-free for forever.

"I don't want to give false hope. But of course we evolve over the years and if it makes sense down the road ... we will reconsider it," he said.

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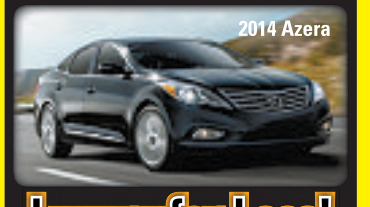
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A protester wearing protective gear and a skull mask waits for police to arrive on a blocked road at the main pro-democracy protest site in the Admiralty district of Hong Kong on Thursday. Hong Kong's student protest leaders said Wednesday they would "stay to the end" as police prepared to swoop in on the rally site after more than two months of mass pro-democracy demonstrations. GETTY IMAGES

Kirk condemns staffers over CIA torture report



Kirk

Sen. Mark Kirk on Wednesday condemned the Democratic staffers on the Senate Intelligence Committee as "little zombies" reaching up from their "political graves" and said the panel's report on the CIA's harsh interrogations of terror suspects threatened U.S. troops and other personnel overseas.

He took aim squarely at the staffers of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), who chairs the intelligence panel. "We may lose a couple of Americans in uniform on the front line in Afghanistan because of this incredible selfish act by Feinstein's staff," Kirk said.

Feinstein had a swift rebuke for Kirk. "This is character assassination and as far from the truth as can be," spokesman Tom Mentzer quoted her as saying in response to Kirk's comments.

Kirk maintained the Democratic staffers would lose their jobs when Republicans take control of the Senate and committees, including the intelligence panel, Jan. 6.

The Democratic staffers "pushed this because they're about to lose their jobs, 'cause the American people picked a Republican majority in the last election," Kirk said. "They wanted so desperately to be relevant and they reached up from the political grave, like [Secretary of State John] Kerry, to do this harm to our troops overseas."

Reaction by Republican senators to the lengthy report, released Tuesday, on the use of enhanced interrogation techniques—which Democrats say amounted to torture—has been mixed.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), on Tuesday issued a statement supporting the report's release and criticizing the CIA and its "brutal" interrogation techniques as "ineffective."

Detroit to exit historic bankruptcy

Detroit officially was to exit the biggest-ever U.S. municipal bankruptcy on Wednesday, officials said, allowing Michigan's largest city to start a new chapter with a lighter debt load. The city, which filed for bankruptcy in July 2013, will shed about $7 billion of its $18 billion of debt and obligations.

U.S.: Human rights abusers 'cannot hide'

Tom Malinowski, assistant secretary of state for human rights, on Wednesday warned North Korea the U.S. would step up pressure on the country to end human rights abuses and that perpetrators "cannot hide anymore." "Our charge from [Secretary of State John Kerry] is to step it up and do more," Malinowski said.

U.S. launches 20 air strikes in Syria, Iraq

The United States launched 20 air strikes against Islamic State militants in recent days, military officials said in a statement Wednesday. Since Monday, U.S. forces conducted seven strikes against the militant group in Syria and led 13 strikes in Iraq with its partner nations, according to the statement from the Combined Joint Task Force.

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A SHOT IN THE ARMS

Jon Lester's a Cub ... start the playoff countdown now?

Holy cow, the 2015 baseball season should be awesome in Chicago. The Cubs signed free agent pitcher Jon Lester on Wednesday to a six-year, $155 million contract. This in the same week the White Sox made major improvements to their own pitching staff. But focusing on the Cubs for the time being, Lester brings a ton of credibility to a starting rotation that struggled to find its footing. REDEYE

SOURCE: ESPN.COM; GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



JON LESTER
ERA 2.46

2014 SEASON

BOSTON
OAKLAND

GAMES PLAYED 32

21 — 11

STRIKEOUTS 220

149 | 71

WINS 16

10 — 6

Llosses 11

7 — 4

Games played
Strikeouts
Wins
Losses



JAKE ARRIETA
ERA 2.53

25 | 167 | 10 | 5



JEFF SAMARDZIJA
ERA 2.83
*stats through June 28

17 | 103 | 2 | 7



TRAVIS WOOD
ERA 5.03

31 | 146 | 8 | 13



EDWIN JACKSON
ERA 6.33

28 | 123 | 6 | 15



JASON HAMMEL
ERA 2.98
*stats through July 4

17 | 104 | 8 | 5

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» Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon to enter 2015 NFL draft

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1	**How will Jeff Samardzija's second stint in Chicago be different?**	Before, he could become a legend helping the good guys win. Now he's just on the White Sox.	We're better at spelling his name and he's better at correctly pronouncing Goethe Street.	A LOT harder to catch cabs from his new office.	It's nothing like coming home! Blast that Kanye West "Homecoming"! GO SOX!	Well, he's not a Cub anymore, so the chance of winning is different.
2	**Where are the White Sox getting the money to sign free agents?**	The authorities can answer that better than I can. Or just the team accountant.	They've got a guy who's got a guy. You know how that goes!	#nosnitching.	From those suckers who haven't cut the cable cord yet. Thanks for the future championships!	As long as the checks clear—we have the same boss!
3	**Welcome catcher Miguel Montero to the Cubs.**	Hi.	Congrats! Hi, Miguel, nice to meet you. Win a World Series and we can be friends.	Welcome to the Cubs. Do well and hope for a trade to the Cardinals in your prime!	There is a 99.9 percent chance you are not going to win a World Series, but summers are beautiful here!	Welcome to Chicago! Where our motto is, "There's always THIS year!"
4	**When a Hawks player is sent to a "conditioning assignment," what does that mean?**	Watch 10 days of non-stop "Real Housewives." Anyone who can endure that can endure anything.	It's a secret. Kind of like the identity of the "player to be named later" in a trade.	Oh, that's the project that's repeated right after the shampooing assignment.	All I have to say is, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."	Oof, you're fat!
5	**Which Chicago sporting event should William and Kate attend next time they're in the U.S.?**	Please direct all royal family questions to Jim Walsh.	A Kansas City Royals game. Guess it'll have to wait till next year.	The annual act-like-you-didn't-know-how-cold-Chicago-was winter games.	Of course the Blackhawks, so they can see what sports royalty looks like!	If they want the best impression of Chicago sports, just avoid Soldier Field at all costs.

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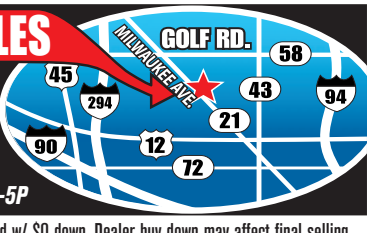
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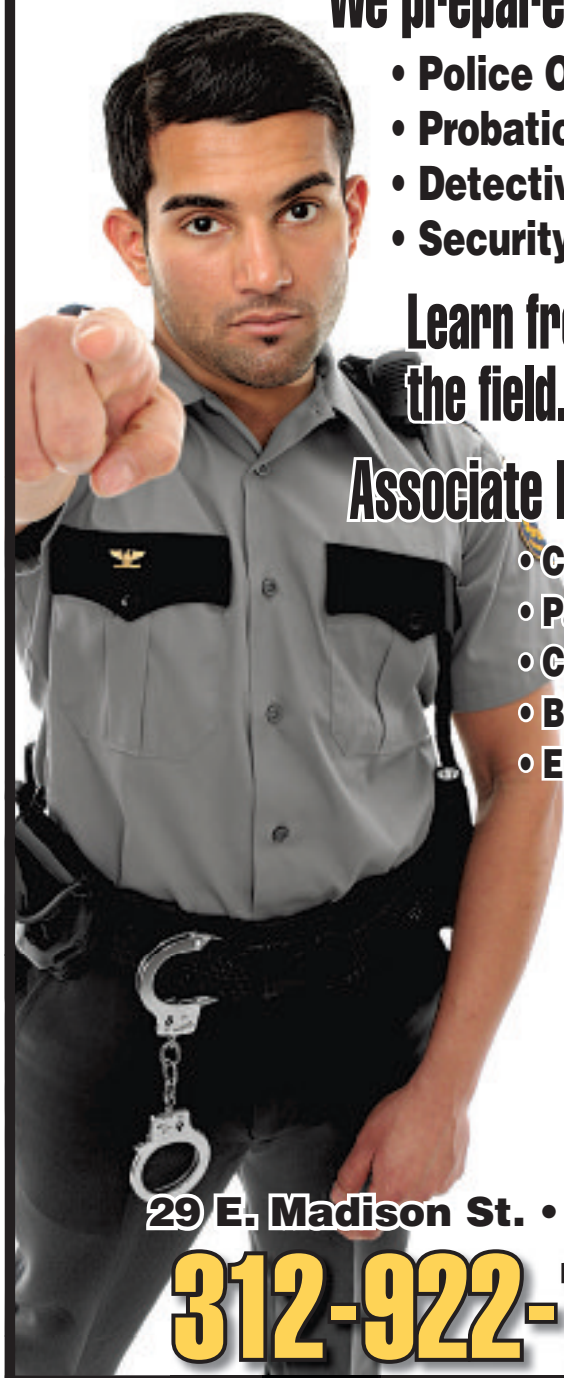
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FROM NEWS SERVICES



LESTER'S A FIGHTER

Most Cubs fans already like Jon Lester because he's a great pitcher. But if you're looking for another reason, remember he's a cancer survivor. He was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2006 but is now cancer-free. In 2012, he started the NVRQT Campaign to support children's cancer research.

GETTY FILE

THE DIGIT

12-1

Las Vegas loves the Cubs even more now. The team's odds to win the 2015 World Series, according to the Westgate SuperBook, improved from 40-1 to 18-1 when the Cubs hired manager Joe Maddon. In the wake of the Jon Lester signing, that number is now 12-1. The White Sox, meanwhile, are at 25-1.



GETTY IMAGES

No one needs that, Melo

This might kill any lingering anxiety over the Bulls failing to sign Carmelo Anthony. According to ESPNNewYork, Knicks players are at odds with the All-Star and have told him he shoots too much, doesn't move or pass and only plays defense when he feels like it. Sounds like the Bulls caught a break in free agency after all.

THE MOUTHWATCH

"Getcha popcorn ready, there's about to be a show. Johnny Football, he earned that name for a reason, so sit back and let him do what he do."

—**N.Y. Giants lineman Damontre Moore**, on former college teammate Johnny Manziel starting at quarterback for Cleveland this weekend

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LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS AND PHOTO ILLUSTRATION




2 Mezcal cocktail


4 Brooklyn Boulders' climbing wall KERI WIGINTON/TRIBUNE FILE


3 Classic margarita

By Samantha Nelson | FOR REDEYE

Where will you be ringing in 2015? If you don't have the answer to that question yet, it's time to start planning. Whether you're looking to bid farewell to 2014 with a filling feast or party well past midnight, here are 10 options to plan for on Dec. 31.

5 DECADENT DINNERS

A10

1462 E. 53rd St. 773-288-1010

Chef Matthias Merges' European-inspired restaurant in Hyde Park offers a three-course menu including fried sweet shrimp with pancetta, braised oxtail with red wine spaetzle and toasted cannoli with meyer lemon jam. Add a choice of white or red wine for each course and a dessert wine for $35 or $60 for a premium set.

When: 4-11 p.m.

Price: $65. Reservations accepted by phone or online at **a10hydepark.com**

Momotaro

820 W. Lake St. 312-733-4818

A celebration in the West Loop restaurant's lower-level izakaya lounge includes food stations serving dishes such as chicken gyoza and squash croquettes, a glass of champagne at midnight and six tickets redeemable for cocktails, select glasses of wine or anything on the beer menu.

When: 8 p.m.

Price: $100. Buy tickets online at **izakaya2015nye.brownpapertickets.com**

1 The Promontory

5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West 312-801-2100

Chef Jared Wentworth's five-course tasting menu features hearty dishes such as roasted pork belly, seared smoked sturgeon and beef pot roast. Wine pairings with each course are available for an additional $35, and the 9:30 p.m. seating includes a champagne toast. If you're looking to keep celebrating after dinner, head upstairs for a house music party hosted by 102.7 (WVAZ-FM) featuring a set from Farley Jackmaster Funk and champagne at midnight.

When: 6:30 or 9:30 p.m.

Price: $65 (6:30 p.m.); $75 (9:30 p.m.) $55-$75 for the house music party. Reservations accepted by phone or at **promontorychicago.com**

2 Ada St.

1664 N. Ada St. 773-697-7069

Chef Zoe Schor prepares three different menus to appeal to seafood fans, meat lovers and vegetarians. The Surf menu includes grilled prawns and pan-seared sea bass, Turf offers beef carpaccio and pan-roasted wagyu



1 The Promontory bartender Joe Olivio TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE FILE

hanger steak, and Earth features a winter greens salad and hand-rolled pici pasta with mushroom ragout.
When: 6-10 p.m.
Price: $100-$130. Email manager Michelle Szot at **mszot@dmkrestaurants.com** for reservations.

3 Bar Takito
201 N. Morgan St. 312-888-9485
The four-course menu at this Latin bar and restaurant provides plenty of choices, including shrimp ceviche, papas fritas, coffee-braised beef tacos and popcorn-butterscotch mousse. Tickets include margaritas, craft cocktails, beer, wine and a midnight toast, plus DJs provide a mix of house, indie rock and pop tunes.
When: 10 p.m.
Price: $85-$99. Buy tickets online at **nyebartakito.eventbrite.com**

5 ROCKIN' PARTIES

New Year's Eve Beach Party at The Whistler
2421 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-3530
Escape from the cold with a beach-themed party at the Logan Square bar featuring a surf rock band, DJs, appetizers and a drink package including tiki cocktails and a midnight toast.
When: 9:30 p.m.
Price: $99. Buy tickets online at **whistlerchicago.com**

4 The Boulevard at Brooklyn Boulders
100 S. Morgan St.
Cause & Affect takes over the 25,000-square-foot rock-climbing gym for this Hollywood-themed bash featuring beats from DJ Kareem, cocktails, appetizers from Phil Stefani Signature Events, aerialist performances and a midnight champagne toast and ball drop. Proceeds benefit the BKB Foundation.
When: 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Price: $95-$125. Buy tickets online at **theboulevard.eventbrite.com**

New Year's Casino Party at Henry's Swing Club
18 W. Hubbard St. 312-955-8018
Play blackjack, roulette, poker and craps at this River North bar for a shot at winning a cocktail party for 10 and other prizes. This casino-themed bash also features live funk and soul music from Get Up With the Get Downs, a photo booth, sliders, house cocktails and beer.
When: 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Price: $150. Buy tickets online at **eventbee.com/v/henrysnye**

New Year's Eve at CH Distillery
564 W. Randolph St. 312-707-8780
The West Loop bar and distillery's drink package includes signature cocktails and a midnight champagne toast, plus canapes to graze on and party favors.
When: 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
Price: $150. Reservations accepted by phone.

New Year's Hullabaloo at Uptown Underground
4707 N. Broadway 773-867-1946
The Kiss Kiss Cabaret hosts its annual New Year's Eve bash at this new theater space in Uptown. Kick things off with a cocktail hour and appetizers followed by a two-hour performance from The Kiss Kiss Cabaret, a midnight champagne toast, a dessert buffet and a dance party. Tickets include a drink package.
When: 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Price: $100-$125. Buy tickets online at **uptownunderground.net**

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NIGHTCRAWLERS

SEEN ON THE SCENE AT THE FRANKLIN ROOM, 675 N. FRANKLIN ST.

Nightlife hub River North has plenty of bumping clubs, but the latest addition is The Franklin Room, an underground (literally) tavern with ambitious cocktails and food from the team behind Union Sushi & Barbeque Bar. We stopped in on opening weekend to see if the full moon was stirring up any mischief. MIGUEL GUZMAN, FOR REDEYE



Jacki Perry
30, entrepreneur

What are you drinking?
Angel's Envy [bourbon], neat, because I love it.

How long does it take you to drink one of those?
I don't know, maybe a half-hour?

Is it a discipline thing? Because it would be hard for me to hold on to the same drink for a half hour.
Therein lies the danger. You sip it, you sip it. It's a marathon, not a sprint!



Annie Matheson
27, event coordinator

Did you notice it's a full moon? Any bizarre experiences today?
I was waiting for the bus in Logan Square this morning, minding my own business and all of a sudden this really small kind of adorable ... guy started singing this really intense Spanish song. But he was really going all for it, singing from his heart! And I noticed the full moon this evening and I thought about that guy.



Paul Pazdziora
35, trading support specialist

What are you drinking tonight?
I'm drinking a dirty martini, easy olive juice, with onions because it's the best martini and olives are horrible. And I'm a vodka connoisseur.

Are you an onion connoisseur too?
I'm more of an anything-pickled connoisseur. I enjoy a good pickled onion.

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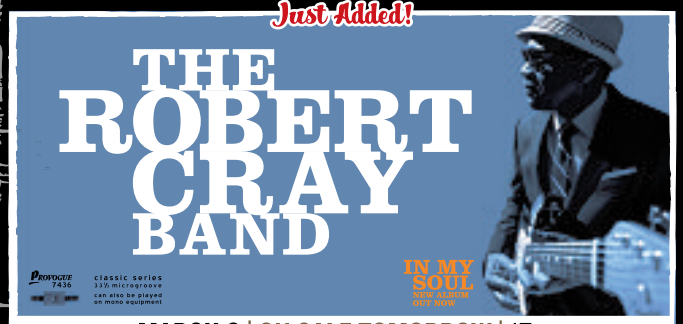
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Sword fighting is Lorenzo Richelmy's new second language

By Curt Wagner | REDEYE

Eight months ago, Italian actor Lorenzo Richelmy didn't know how to ride a horse, sword fight, do martial arts or use a bow and arrow.

Now, after playing the title role in Netflix's new series "Marco Polo," the 24-year-old can do all those things—and speak English.

"I didn't know English at the beginning of this," he said during a recent phone interview. "It was pretty massive, the kind of training I did. ... I had six weeks actually to learn kung fu, archery, horseback riding, Mongolian wrestling and sword fighting and English, basically."

Although "Marco Polo," which premieres at 2:01 a.m. Friday on Netflix, boasts an international cast of hundreds and used more than 300 extras at a time in some battle scenes, the story of the 13th century Italian merchant-turned-explorer's early adventures in the court of Mongolian leader Kublai Khan wouldn't fly without the right man playing Polo.

Produced by the Weinstein Company at a cost of about $90 million for 10 episodes, according to industry executives interviewed by the New York Times, it's not only Netflix's most expensive original production to date, but also one of the costliest TV series ever. It was filmed in Italy and Kazakhstan, as well as Malaysia, where a 50-acre studio of 51 sets was built by a crew of more than 500.

Richelmy said he felt the pressure of leading such a huge production. His parents were theater actors, so he began acting as a child and at 18 starred in an Italian TV series for two seasons before going to drama school. Since then, he's worked steadily in TV and movies, but "Marco Polo" is by far his biggest project to date.

"I realized how massive it was when in Venice we occupied three [city] squares, two bridges and a river and had this fake moon two miles away just to have the shine on the river," he said. "In that moment I said to myself, 'Holy [bleep]. OK, the only way to do it is just pretend it's easy and just play.' "

Series creator John Fusco and his producers looked at more than 100 actors for the role. They flew Richelmy to Malaysia for a second audition but still weren't quite sure about him, according to the actor.

"My English was pretty [bleep]," Richelmy said, laughing. "They told me, 'Listen you cannot do this job. So we're going to try to give you a dialect coach for one week and let's see how far you can get.' "



Benedict Wong (center) and Lorenzo Richelmy (right) in 'Marco Polo'

The actor began his English training, as well as four hours in the gym, horseback-riding and martial arts lessons each day—and landed the job.

"He has this brooding quality but also this fire," Fusco says in a Netflix featurette for the series. "He is a perfect balance between storyteller and badass warrior."

Of all the skills he's learned during the project, Richelmy says English was the most difficult but also the most important as a storyteller. Besides, he just couldn't have an American or Australian actor playing such a famous Italian.

"I thought to myself, 'Why? Why? Why don't they take me? They take an American actor speaking and doing the Italian?' In the show I speak in Italian sometimes and you don't want to watch like Brad Pitt in 'Inglorious Basterds' say 'bon gornie' [for buongiorno]!"

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tv

An epic journey that's still finding its way



SHOW PATROL

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Marco Polo
2:01 a.m. Friday, Netflix

If you're expecting "Marco Polo," Netflix's apparent attempt to create an epic as expansive and thrilling as "Game of Thrones," to hold you over until that HBO series returns in the spring, it may disappoint you. If you accept it on its own rather confused terms, you might just enjoy it.

Or you might switch over to one of the many martial-arts movies or political series or costume dramas or fish-out-of-water tales available on the streaming service. "Marco Polo" travels all those routes, but only by the fifth of 10 episodes does it get on track.

"Marco Polo" follows the fictional adventures of the famed explorer as a 17-year-old given as a gift to Mongol ruler Kublai Khan so the warrior king will award Marco's merchant father free reign over trade routes in 13th century China.

Created by John Fusco ("The Forbidden Kingdom") and funded in part by the Weinstein Company's deep pockets, the series boasts an epic feel with beautiful sets, sweeping landscapes and gorgeous photography.

But "Marco Polo" flits between storytelling styles without completely tying them together as successfully as "Game of Thrones."

And then there's the matter of Marco himself. Although Italian actor Lorenzo Richelmy has the fish-out-of-water earnestness of a kid left to fend for himself in a strange land, he's almost a secondary character amid the scene-setting of the early episodes as we learn about the intrigue in Khan's court, treachery among the Mongol tribes and plots by Chinese chancellor Sidao (Chin Han) to claim power in China—as well as assassinate Khan.

Richelmy's also no match for Benedict Wong, who steals the screen as Kublai Khan much as the real deal conquered most of Asia back in the day. Many other actors impress with both their acting and stunt work, but they are forced to speak a lot of platitudes that must translate less silly in Mongolian or Italian.

"And the women you've conquered—do they melt in your hands?" a warrior woman asks Marco flirtatiously.

"Like snow in the desert," he replies.

Blech. Still, the fifth and sixth episodes show a marked improvement and left me wanting more.


Lorenzo Richelmy In 'Marco Polo'

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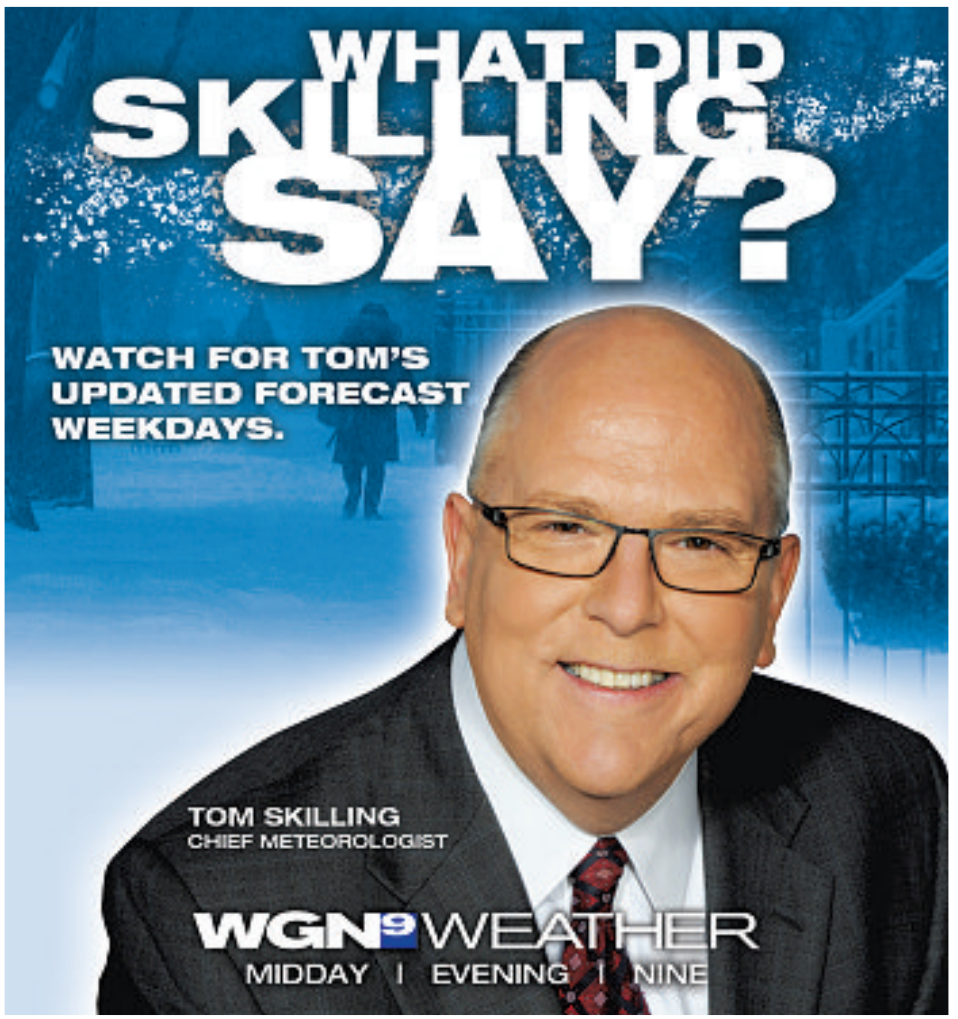
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(773) 509-4949
■**Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:00
■**The Homesman** (R) (Closed caption) 4:30, 10:10
■**Whiplash** (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:45
■**The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
■**The Imitation Game** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 7:00, 9:30
■**Wild** (R) (Closed caption) 3:30, 6:30, 9:15
■**Wild** (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
■**Foxcatcher** (R) (Closed caption) 1:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
■**Rosewater** (R) (Closed caption) 1:30, 7:30

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
■**Interstellar: The IMAX Experience** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:10, 3:00, 7:00, 10:50
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:15, 10:00
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:30
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:00, 11:15
■**Top Five** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 8:15, 11:00
■**The Pyramid** (R) (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 7:40, 10:40
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:25, 5:15, 7:55, 10:45
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:35, 1:35, 2:15, 4:05, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:05, 12:05, 2:45, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:20, 5:30, 7:20, 10:20
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00
■**Dumb and Dumber To** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:15, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:55
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:20, 5:10
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:40, 4:40
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:50, 3:40, 7:30, 10:10
■**Nightcrawler** (R) (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:10, 6:15, 11:05
■**St. Vincent** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 7:15

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
■**Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) 8:00
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) 5:00
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ★ 4:50, 7:30, 10:15

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 State Street
(312) 846-2800
■**The Tale of the Princess Kaguya** (PG) 6:00
■**The Tale of the Princess Kaguya** (PG) 7:30
■**The Blue Room** (R) 6:00
■**Björk: Biophilia Live** (NR) 8:30

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)
S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) Ð 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:00, 3:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 9:30
■**The Equalizer** (R) Ð 12:15, 6:15
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) Ð 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 8:45
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) Ð 1:45, 7:15
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) Ð 12:00, 2:45, 6:00
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00, 9:00
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) Ð 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00
■**Dumb and Dumber To** (PG-13) Ð 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
■AMC Independent **Beyond the Lights** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 2:00, 5:00
■AMC Independent **St. Vincent** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 4:00, 10:00
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) Ð 4:30, 10:00
■AMC Independent **Nightcrawler** (R) Ð 3:15, 9:15
■**John Wick** (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
■**The Pyramid** (R) ★ Ð 12:15, 3:40, 6:30, 9:40
■**Top Five** (R) ★ Ð 8:00, 9:00

LOGAN THEATRE
2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:25
■**Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) 2:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15
■**Gone Girl** (R) 4:15, 7:00
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) 2:20, 4:05, 7:15, 9:50
■**St. Vincent** (PG-13) 2:10, 10:25
■**Trading Places** (R) 10:30

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) Ð 11:30, 12:20, 1:35, 2:30, 3:20, 4:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:45
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) Ð 11:00, 11:45, 1:20, 3:45, 4:40, 9:40
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) 2:10, 7:15
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) Ð 11:00, 3:40, 6:15
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) Ð 11:40, 3:15, 6:55
■AMC Independent **Foxcatcher** (R) Ð 11:40, 1:00, 2:45, 6:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00, 9:15, 10:45
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) Ð 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 7:00, 8:35, 11:15
■**Gone Girl** (R) Ð 12:45, 7:30
■**Dumb and Dumber To** (PG-13) Ð 1:10, 4:00, 6:45
■AMC Independent **Beyond the Lights** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 4:20
■AMC Independent **The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) Ð 1:15, 4:15, 7:15
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) Ð 1:05
■AMC Independent **Hector and the Search for Happiness** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:45, 6:45
■**Fury** (R) Ð 4:05
■AMC Independent **Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) Ð 1:30, 4:30, 10:50
■AMC Independent **The Imitation Game** (PG-13) ★ Ð 7:00, 10:00
■AMC Independent **Wild** (R) ★ Ð 11:00, 1:10, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:15, 10:00
■AMC Independent **Nightcrawler** (R) Ð 11:10, 2:05, 4:55, 10:45
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00, 11:15
■**John Wick** (R) (Closed caption) 9:50
■**The Pyramid** (R) ★ Ð 11:05, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40
■**Top Five** (R) ★ Ð 8:00, 9:45, 10:45, 11:15
■**Action Jackson** (NR) ★ Ð 11:20, 2:45, 10:05
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) Ð 12:30, 9:15

MUSIC BOX
3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604
■**Antarctica: A Year on Ice** (PG) 5:00, 7:20, 9:35

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00, 9:00, 11:00
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00, 10:00, 12:01
■**Top Five** (R) ★ Ð 8:00, 10:00, 12:01

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:00
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:30
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:20, 4:10, 6:40
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:40, 9:00
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 11:40, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:10, 4:30, 9:40
■**Dumb and Dumber To** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:15, 2:30, 5:10
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:45, 7:10
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:05, 2:40, 6:20, 10:05
■**Nightcrawler** (R) (Closed caption) 5:00
■**Gone Girl** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 12:20, 3:30, 6:50, 9:50
■**Fury** (R) (Closed caption) 1:50

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00
■AMC Independent **Top Five** (R) ★ Ð 8:00

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION
Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:10, 9:30
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ✓ (Closed caption) 12:00, 3:00
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ✓ (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 1:15, 9:15
■**Women Who Flirt** (NR) ★ 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:10
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) (Closed caption) 2:40, 3:50, 5:15, 6:30
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) (Closed caption) 4:10, 6:50
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:30, 6:15, 9:55
■**Gone Girl** (R) (Closed caption) 2:50, 6:20, 10:25
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) (Closed caption) 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
■**Beyond the Lights** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:15, 3:15
■**The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45
■**Wild** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■**Wild** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 9:40
■**Wild** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:40
■**The Pyramid** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 12:40, 1:20, 3:30, 4:20, 6:10, 7:10, 8:30, 9:50, 11:00
■**Top Five** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 11:10
■**Top Five** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 8:00, 10:35

VIP Premium 21+

■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) ✓ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 12:00, 3:00
■**Wild** (R) ★ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■**Top Five** (R) ★ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 11:10

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cernak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) Ð 1:00, 6:35
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) Ð 1:40, 2:45, 4:30, 5:45, 7:30, 8:45, 10:30
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) Ð 1:10
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) Ð 2:00, 4:40, 6:00, 7:10, 8:30
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) Ð 3:30
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) ★ 2:50, 5:20
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) Ð 2:30, 4:20, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) ★ Ð 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20
■**Dumb and Dumber To** (PG-13) Ð 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
■AMC Independent **Beyond the Lights** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 4:55
■AMC Independent **Beyond the Lights** (PG-13) Ð 2:10
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) Ð 1:35
■**Panic 5 Bravo** (R) Ð 1:50, 4:25, 7:15, 9:50
■AMC Independent **Nightcrawler** (R) Ð 3:45, 10:10
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) ★ Ð 8:00
■**The Pyramid** (R) Ð 1:05, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 9:40, 10:25
■**Top Five** (R) ★ Ð 8:00
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) Ð 2:50, 6:30, 9:25

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 2:00, 3:40, 4:40, 6:20, 7:20, 9:00, 10:00
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:10, 6:30, 8:40
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 4:20
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:25
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 8:00
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) (Closed caption) 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45
■**The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:45, 4:15

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123 ♿
■**St. Vincent** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 12:05, 6:05
■**Gone Girl** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 4:00, 7:15, 10:15
■**Foxcatcher** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 12:10, 3:45, 7:20, 10:25
■**Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:55, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
■**Big Hero 6** (PG) Ð (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
■**Big Hero 6 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 10:45, 1:20
■**Interstellar** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 11:45, 3:20, 7:05, 9:15
■**Dumb and Dumber To** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:25, 5:10
■**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 10:45, 11:30, 12:15, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:05, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 10:00, 10:45
■**Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) Ð (Closed caption) 11:20, 2:10, 4:30, 7:10
■**Penguins of Madagascar 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 12:55, 3:25, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35
■**Horrible Bosses 2** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 10:55, 12:00, 1:30, 2:40, 4:10, 5:20
■**The Theory of Everything** (PG-13) Ð (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:40, 3:05, 4:35, 7:25, 8:45, 10:30
■**Wild** (R) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40
■**Wild** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 12:25, 3:15, 6:10, 8:55
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings** (PG-13) Ð 10:30
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) 8:00, 12:01
■**Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D** (PG-13) 9:15
■**Rosewater** (R) Ð (Closed caption) 3:10, 10:40
■**Top Five** (R) Ð 8:00, 10:30, 12:01

				7	6			
					2	3	5	
6		5	1			4		
				2			4	9
3								1
1	7			6				
		6			3	2		8
	9	7	2					
			6	8				

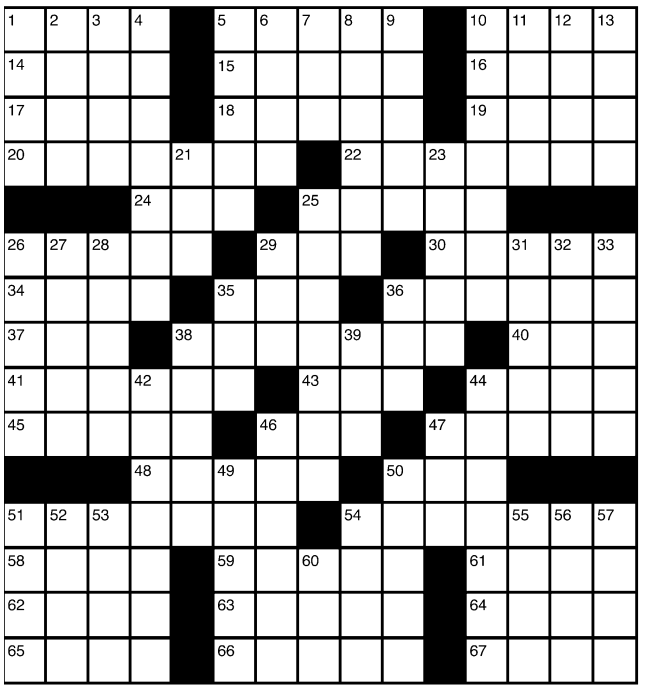
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

4	2	6	8	1	7	3	5	9
3	8	5	4	2	9	6	1	7
7	9	1	6	3	5	2	8	4
5	7	4	3	9	1	8	6	2
2	1	8	5	7	6	4	9	3
6	3	9	2	4	8	5	7	1
9	5	2	1	8	3	7	4	6
1	6	3	7	5	4	9	2	8
8	4	7	9	6	2	1	3	5

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

A	R	M	Y	■	A	C	T	E	D	■	A	P	E	S
B	E	A	U	■	T	O	A	D	Y	■	G	O	Y	A
C	A	R	L	■	H	O	R	S	E	S	H	O	E	S
S	P	A	■	F	E	L	T	■	■	C	A	R	D	S
■	■	S	W	A	N	S	■	■	S	O	S	■	■	■
P	A	C	E	R	S	■	■	H	U	N	T	E	R	■
U	S	H	E	R	■	S	L	I	D	E	■	C	A	B
S	K	I	D	■	F	E	E	D	S	■	M	O	R	E
H	E	N	■	S	L	A	T	E	■	T	E	N	E	T
■	D	O	C	T	O	R	■	■	S	E	N	O	R	A
■	■	■	L	E	E	■	■	S	T	R	U	M	■	■
E	L	B	O	W	■	■	B	E	A	M	■	I	C	U
R	E	A	S	S	U	R	I	N	G	■	S	C	O	T
G	A	L	E	■	P	U	R	S	E	■	T	A	L	E
O	D	D	S	■	A	N	D	E	S	■	S	L	O	P

AACROSS
1 Spill the beans
5 Narrow inlet
10 Other _; besides
14 Italy's capital
15 Of the moon
16 Get up
17 In the sack
18 Proverb
19 Irritates
20 Fate
22 Talkathon
24 Pen contents
25 Brake or accelerator
26 Smell
29 Launch site
30 Closes tightly
34 Capitol roof, usually
35 Distant
36 Accident
37 Certain vote
38 Interplanetary visitor
40 Go astray
41 Disgusting bug
43 Pennsylvania or 5th: abbr.
44 Coffee
45 Kills
46 Firmament
47 December 11
48 Noisy brawl
50 Unruly crowd
51 Actor Charles
54 Rubber ducky's "pond"
58 Molten rock
59 Home of logs
61 Egg on
62 Frosts, as a cake
63 Ring-shaped island
64 Cairo's river
65 _ up; confined
66 Like a roof that lets the rain in
67 Gifts for kids



DOWN
1 Actor _ Pitt
2 Part of the ear
3 Last name for a 1950s quartet
4 9 p.m. on school nights, perhaps
5 _ steak; cut of beef
6 Liza's mother
7 Stop _ dime
8 In tatters
9 Great fear
10 Knickknacks
11 Bring on board
12 Inquires
13 Treetop home
21 _ flash; instantly
23 Sink
25 _ of; share in
26 West & Sandler
27 Regal
28 Greek letter
29 _ for the course; normal
31 _ of time; early
32 Insect stage
33 Aerosol
35 Kind of chance
36 Fannie _; type of home loan
38 Exodus leader
39 Climbing plant
42 Tumbler
44 Search for employment
46 Upper House of Congress
47 Little child
49 _ yokel; small town resident
50 Macho
51 Radar screen image
52 Marathon
53 Microwave, e.g.
54 Defraud; cheat
55 Threesome
56 Hideous
57 Buzzing insects
60 Crushing snake

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1816: Indiana became the 19th state.
1990: Ivana Trump divorced from real estate mogul Donald Trump.
1997: More than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control Earth's greenhouse gases.
2005: Paramount Pictures announced it was buying independent film studio DreamWorks SKG Inc.



Grossinger year-end all in event.

what does all in mean to you?

all in means 0% APR for 72 months[1]
all in means over $5,000 in savings[2]

20 DAYS LEFT TO SAVE IN 2014

FIRST TIME BUYER PROGRAM - NO CREDIT NEEDED | RECENT COLLEGE GRAD? GREAT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
SALES TAX BASED ON WHERE YOU LIVE NOT WHERE YOU BUY | LOWER YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENTS

TOYOTA

New 2015 Toyota Corolla L **all in.**



#K150269, 4 Cyl. Manual

$14,778* MSRP $17,950

all in savings $3,172[2]

New 2014 Toyota Prius C **all in.**



#K141364, One 5dr HB

$15,998* MSRP $20,130

all in savings $4,132[2]

New 2015 Toyota Camry LE **all in.**



#K150335

$17,988* MSRP $24,050

all in savings $6,062[2]

Pre-Driven Specials



2004 Toyota Corolla
#K150151A
$4,888*



2013 Toyota Corolla
#P9732
$9,998*



2009 Toyota Camry LE
#K150384A
$9,998*

Grossinger City Toyota
1561 N. FREMONT, CHICAGO
(JUST WEST OF NORTH AVE & CLYBOURN)
888-972-9198
GrossingerCityToyota.com

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HONDA

New 2015 Honda Civic LX **all in.**



$98 PER MONTH 36 MO LEASE^

#G50235 AUTO SEDAN ^You must qualify. 36 mo. lease. $2500 due at signing. Plus tax, title & lic. & $166.27 doc. fee. $0 sec. dep. 12K mi/yr, 15¢/mi after. Exp. 3 days from pub.

New 2015 Honda Accord LX **all in.**



$128 PER MONTH 36 MO LEASE^

#G50271 AUTO SEDAN ^You must qualify. 36 mo. lease. $2500 down. Plus tax, title & lic. & $166.27 doc. fee. $0 sec. dep. 12K mi/yr, 15¢/mi after. Exp. 3 days from pub.

New 2015 Honda CR-V LX **all in.**



$128 PER MONTH 36 MO LEASE^

AWD #G50143 ^You must qualify. 36 mo. lease. $2500 down. Plus tax, title & lic. & $166.27 doc. fee. $0 sec. dep. 12K mi/yr, 15¢/mi after. Exp. 3 days from pub.

Pre-Driven Specials



2013 Honda Civic LX
#GH205
$13,995*



2013 Honda CR-V LX
#G41057A
$15,995*



2013 Honda Odyssey LX
#GH208
$19,995*

Grossinger Honda
6600 N. WESTERN AVENUE, CHICAGO
(2 BLOCKS NORTH OF DEVON)
855-674-6560
GrossingerHonda.com

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*Plus tax, title, lic. & $166.27 doc fee.1) You must qualify. $13.88 per $1000 financed. $20k max financed, bank buy down rate. 2) Off MSRP on select new Toyota models. From Grossinger. All vehicles subject to prior sales. Offers to qualified buyers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in ad. Offers end 3 days after pub.

whoville

British star is nearly unrecognizable in new 'Mad Max' trailer

HOULT! WHO GOES THERE?



Nicholas Hoult in 'Mad Max: Fury Road'

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

While the first trailer for "Mad Max: Fury Road" played like one giant, explosive desert car chase, the new peek, which dropped Wednesday, began developing some characters—and continued the giant, explosive desert car chase. The biggest WTF—and that's saying something in a movie where warlords drive into sand tornadoes—comes when off-and-on Jennifer Lawrence boyfriend Nicholas Hoult's name and face flash on the screen.

Hoult's come an awful long way to play this scar-lipped, ghost-white creature. In fact, he's usually so fuzzy and friendly, we would never have recognized him without the inches-high fiery letters. The evidence is in his past roles, which we've ranked below.

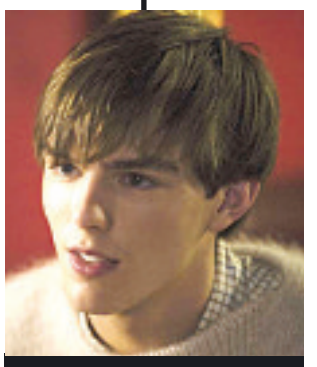
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ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES 1

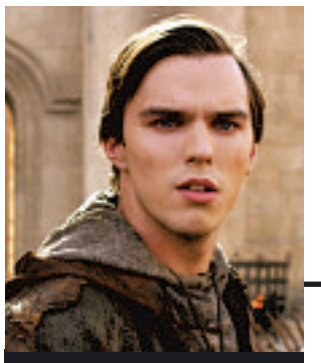


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Skins *2007-2008*
Fuzzy factor: 2
OK, so his Tony had psychopathic tendencies, but you had to feel for the guy after he had a subdural hematoma!



A Single Man *2009*
Fuzzy factor: 3
He has a crush on his teacher (Colin Firth), whose suicide he helps prevent. Sounds like a guy who operates with the best of intentions.



Jack the Giant Slayer *2013*
Fuzzy factor: 4
It's a story about a beanstalk, people. Sure, Jack *is* a killer, but he's also kind of a dope.



X-Men: First Class & X-Men: Days of Future Past *2011 & 2014*
Fuzzy factor: 5
His Beast is scary on the outside, but also covered in fuzz to match the interior.



Warm Bodies *2013*
Fuzzy factor: 5
He's the non-beating heart of a zombie rom-com.



About A Boy *2002*
Fuzzy factor: 5
LOOK AT THE WEE LITTLE LAD.

LIKE A TEDDY BEAR 5



Velvet.



Meet Lea.

She is in her senior year at the Collège Français in downtown Toronto, works not too far from there at our Flea Market on Spadina, and lives near Little Italy in her childhood home. Her dad is an interior designer from the UK and her mom is a francophone from Winnipeg whose job at Air Canada has allowed them to travel the world. Lea's been to Beijing, Shanghai, Turkey, Budapest, Croatia, and France, but her absolute favorite spot is Puerto Vallarta. As a kid Lea wanted to become famous—like Britney Spears. But as the teen idol "fell from grace," Lea decided maybe it'd be a better idea to pursue a career where she could help troubled teens. She is now looking to go into Ryerson's Criminology program. Sometimes nicknamed Kobe for her height (that is, if you think 6'2" is tall), Lea is pretty hard to miss; when she's not busy with school or work, you'll most likely find her painting, drawing, or enjoying a plate of moules-frites. She is pictured here wearing the Velvet Skater Dress and Tights.

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HOT YEAR

2015

That's when Modest Mouse will release a new record, the band's first since "We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank" in 2007, **revolt.tv** reports. A new single, "Lampshades on Fire," is set to hit airwaves Monday. Get your mopey face ready.



David Letterman
REUTERS

HOT DATE

MAY 20

That's when David Letterman will host his final episode of "The Late Show," CBS announced Wednesday. Upon his retirement, Letterman will have hosted the show 6,028 times, according to The Hollywood Reporter. No date has been set yet for Stephen Colbert's start, but "The Colbert Report" ends its run Dec. 18, and five months seems like plenty of time to set up an immediate takeover.



Mindy Kaling
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Man-lover

While her Fox show, "The Mindy Project," is hugely popular among women younger than 35, does Mindy Kaling worry that the dudes of the world aren't so interested? "I love men and have some of the funniest men on the planet on my show," the actress and showrunner told Vulture. "So I'm always hoping other men will watch and see how many story lines reflect their lives." Oh, like last week, when Morgan (Ike Barinholtz) had to teach Jeremy (Ed Weeks) how to make a baby go to sleep? Legit.



Kanye West
REUTERS

Best rapper alive?

BET has decided once again to stroke Kanye West's ego. The rapper will be honored with the Visionary Award at next year's BET Honors, which are set to be taped Jan. 24 and aired on the network Feb. 23. Also to be honored at the Wayne Brady-hosted event is Usher, who'll pick up the Musical Arts Award in recognition of his two-decade-long career. Oh Usher, you don't look a day over 25.

Off to the races

Hark! The first big declaration of the new awards season has been made! Ansel Elgort and Eva Longoria announced the nominees for the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Wednesday morning. "Birdman" led the nominations on the movie side with four, including ones for stars Michael Keaton, Edward Norton and Emma Stone. On the TV end, HBO's shows garnered 14 nods, including ones for "True Detective" stars Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson. We'll find out how it all shakes down when the trophies are handed out Jan. 25.

THE QUOTE

"Like, where are we as a society that it's considered news that I went on vacation? Doesn't the world have bigger issues to deal with than looking at photos of me in short-shorts and a weird camo hat?"

—**Nick Kroll,** to Playboy, on being weirded out when gossip mags publish photos of him and girlfriend Amy Poehler on vacation. Solution: No more short shorts for you, sir.



GETTY IMAGES

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